

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV) , P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2009, AT ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME,

4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix 85012

Call to Order: The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Acting Chairman Phil Hanson with proper ceremonies.

The roll was called and a quorum established for conducting business.

Motion to approve the Minutes made by Bob Delker and seconded by Linda Fulkerson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report presented by Secretary Culbertson due to the excused absence of Treasurer Jesse Gersten.

REPORTS

- 1. Arizona Dept of Veterans Services – Joey Strickland, Director, reported that budgetwise, the Dept will be in good shape. The Dept's budget is 23 million, mostly generated by Medicare, Medicaid, fiduciary, etc. The Veteran Home will soon turn a small profit. Capital improvements are planned, for example, the Veteran Home has original paint dating back to 1995. A fence is planned to maintain boundaries with the VA Medical Center. 40 Veterans Benefits Counselors are currently serving. MSgt Doyle has been hired to carry out VBC duties in Kingman.**

Director Strickland introduced Homer Rogers of his staff. Mr. Rogers' background is health care. They gave a rundown of what is happening with current and future Veteran Homes. The Phoenix Veteran Home will be one of 6 homes to test the new VA inspection standards on December 15. The new Tucson Veteran Home will be a 120-bed facility; the structure will be four pods connected by walkways, 18 months to build and staffed by 140 staff. Bid deadline for 3 contractors will be 12/1/2010. Ground-breaking planned between February 15 and March 15. A 120-bed Veteran Home is planned for Yuma. The Dept is looking to have a Veteran Home facility in the Kingman-Laughlin-Bullhead triangle.

There have been 3,000 burials at the Sierra Vista Cemetery. The cremains wall is half-full. Future cemetery developments are envisioned at Camp Navajo where there are 80 acres, and the Casa Grande-Tucson areas where there are 45 acres.

Director Strickland announced that Brad Bridwell will be leaving the US Vets Alliance and joining the AZDVS staff on December 1 as Homeless Veterans Coordinator for 3,000-8,000 homeless veterans.

Joey stated that of the \$765,000 in the Governor's Housing Fund, \$300,000 is already expended. \$65,000 will be expended on the Women Veterans Shelter.

\$150,000 has been approved to install the Enduring Freedom Memorial. Work is scheduled to start in mid-January. Another \$150,000 is being donated from the Veterans Donation Fund to clean up the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

The State Military Family Relief Fund has reached 1.2 million so far.

- 2. UAV Legislative Committee – Chair Bob Delker announced that Senator Jim Waring will be notified on Nov 12th of his selection for the annual UAV Copper Shield Award presented to a distinguished legislator. Chairman Delker summarized the Friday, Feb. 12, 2010 event: Dobson Inn, 1666 S. Dobson Road, Mesa, 6 p.m. Cocktails, 7 p.m. Dinner, prime rib and salmon entrees, \$40 per person.**

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. 2009 AVHOF Reception, and Induction Ceremony and Luncheon was very successful. Approximately 600 people attended the Ceremony and Luncheon.**
- 2. As a friendly reminder, it was announced that our guest speaker for the December 5th UAV Meeting will be Gabriel Perez, Director, VAMC.**

NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. Request to join UAV – Secretary Culbertson read a letter from the Walter B. Foote Chapter 22 of the Special Forces Association requesting to join UAV. Spokesperson David Lucier presented that the goals of the Special Forces Association are social and to provide scholarships to students. There are 150 members in Arizona. Motion to approve for membership made by Linda Fulkerson, seconded by Lew Bradley. Motion carried.**
- 2. January 2010 UAV Meeting – There was discussion to staying with the January 2, 2010 meeting date due to there are other veterans organization meetings already scheduled for the 2nd Saturday. A vote was taken. Votes for keeping the meeting on January 2nd exceeded the votes for changing the meeting to January 9th.**
- 3. There was an incident on October 16 at the National Memorial Cemetery in north Phoenix. Veterans were prevented by the Phoenix PD from participating in the**

Staff Sergeant Thomas Rabjohn service. Public Safety Manager Jack Harris' letter of apology to Dick Collis and other veterans was shared with the membership.

- 4. Terry Araman reported that the WWI Veterans Memorial is in disrepair and the plaque is missing.**
- 5. Phil Hanson announced that USAA is now accepting for membership all honorably discharged veterans.**

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- 1. There is a scam afoot, an automated phone call saying that “there is suspicious activity on a person's account, that the card is suspended, and to call 1.888.314.5442.” Advice: Do not call the phone number. (Judy Hatch)**
- 2. Donations from veterans organizations to help pay the booth rental fees of the Veterans Booth at the State Fair are still needed (Judy Hatch).**
- 3. There is an error in Art Sloane's Nov 5 column regarding the State Fair and the Homeless Veterans Standdown.**
- 4. The Tempe City Council approved the process of building the Tempe Veterans Memorial. The groundbreaking will be at Tempe Beach Park on Nov. 11.**
- 5. Please support the American Legion's Military & Veterans Appreciation Night with the Phoenix Suns, Wed., Nov. 11th, \$32 per package (George Cushing).**
- 6. Nov 11th – Dave Hampton reminded that there are 10% discounts at both Lowe's and Home Depot on Veterans Day.**
- 7. Nov 11th – The Tempe City Council approved the process of building the Tempe Veterans Memorial. The groundbreaking will be at Tempe Beach Park on Nov. 11th. David Lucier announced a Veterans program at Sunland Park with Rick Romley as guest speaker.**
- 8. Nov. 20th – East Valley Marines are dedicating a room at the Veteran Home.**
- 9. Nov. 21st – Retiree Appreciation Day at Luke AFB. ID cards are required to access Luke AFB. Organizations can get a free table and 2 chairs. Setup will be Nov. 20 between 7:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.**
- 10. Dec 7th – Pearl Harbor Commemoration ceremonies at Wesley Bolin Plaza at 10:58 a.m. for about one hour. At 1 p.m. in the Old Capitol Museum, State Capitol bldg, Joe Johnson, author of the book Baby of Bataan, will speak.**

50/50 Raffle winner was Webb Ellis, \$25.50; with \$25.50 going to the treasury.

CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT

- 1. The next UAV meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5th, 2009.**
- 2. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.**
- 3. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with a closing salute to the flag.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Culbertson

Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans

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